

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Friday, January 12, 2018, beginning at 4 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett and Council members Armour, Armour, Cullars, Mahoney, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Bailey, City Clerk Danner and City Attorney Nelson.

Visitors presented are listed in the minutes of the Work Session held on January 12, 2018.

City Attorney Nelson opened the meeting in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by R. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of the previous meetings held December 11, 2017 and January 5, 2018.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVED: On motion by T. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved the meeting agenda 6 to 0 adding items under the City Administrator for extension of benefits for a city employee and a Resolution concerning House Bill 419 as it related to fireworks.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY MUNICIPAL AND LEGAL OFFICIALS FOR 2018: Mayor Barnett asked for council approval on the appointment of Michael O. Horgan as Municipal Court Judge for 2018 and Fleming and Nelson as city attorneys for 2018. On motion by Scarborough, second by R. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 the appointment of the Municipal Court Judge and Fleming and Nelson as city attorneys.

SWEAR IN OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE AND ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER: City Attorney Nelson administered the oath of office to Michael Horgan as Municipal Court Judge for 2018 and to elected city council member Robert Armour.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Barnett requested council approval of appointments to boards, commissions and authorities (listing as follows). On motion by R. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved appointments 5 to 1. Council member Mahoney voted against the motion. Council members Mahoney and Cullars both pointed out that there were no District 1 and/or African Americans on the Planning Commission.

BOARD	PERSON	TERM ENDS
911	Council member Cullars	
Historic Preservation	John Singleton	12/2020
Planning Commission	Mark Waters	12/2021
Zoning Appeals – Signs	Sim Dill, Jr.	12/2020.
Zoning Appeals – Signs	Richard Crabbe	12/2020
Parks & Recreation	Robert Armour (new)	12/2019
Tree Commission	Laura Toburen	12/2020
Tree Commission	Marcus Dill (new)	12/2020
Cemetery	Debra Denard	12/2019
Cemetery	Carol Cartledge	12/2019
Cemetery	Maceo Mahoney (new)	12/2019
Cemetery	Travis Armour	12/2019
Cemetery	Janet Parker (new)	12/2019
Senior Advisory Council	Linda Echols	12/2019
Senior Advisory Council	Cheri Turney	12/2019
URA	Mark Ward	12/2020

Mayor Barnett thanked council for approving the meeting date change for the January regular meeting of council. Mayor Barnett also thanked city department heads for a production 2017 year.

Council member Cullars requested that the recording of the December meeting of council be played on Comcast during January 2018.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS: City Attorney Nelson requested council approval of a contract with City Administrator Bailey noting that in Section 10 the evaluation date will be changed to January 31 and in Section 16 the employer will be changed to read Mayor and City Council. On motion by Scarborough,

second by T. Armour, council approved 4 to 2 the contract with changes. Council members Cullars and Mahoney voted against the motion.

TEMPORARY POURING LICENSE: City Clerk Danner requested council approval of a Temporary Pouring License for the National Wild Turkey Federation for an event to be held on March 17, 2018, at the Pope Conference Center. On motion by Scarborough, second by Tutt, council approved request 6 to 0.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL:

TUTT: Council member Tutt asked the status of the fire station rebuild. Mayor Barnett advised of a meeting scheduled for January 18, with the general contractor, city and the Department of Corrections. Council member Mahoney asked that he be informed of any and all meetings related to the fire department and further that he receive copies of any and all bids.

Tutt asked that council review the electric fee amounts at the February meeting of council.

Tutt also asked about the status of the Public Works shop. Mayor advised that two bids were received on the grading for the shop and that grading should begin next week.

MAHONEY: Council member Mahoney asked council to consider adopting a Ban the Box resolution as it relates to current city applications. City Attorneys will review this request and bring back to council at the February meeting.

Mahoney questioned how recent sidewalk installation was paid for. The new sidewalk on West Robert Toombs Avenue was a GA DOT Grant with match coming from TSPLOST funds and the new sidewalk on Court Street at Wings N Things was from the Main Street Budget.

Mahoney asked about water run-off at the alley way on Rusher Street. It was noted that there is no curbing at the alley way on Rusher Street which needs to be built up. This project is in the 2018 budget but has not gone out for bid at this time.

CULLARS: Council member Cullars reminded those present of a Red Cross shelter meeting scheduled for January 22, 2018 from 10 AM until 4 PM.

Cullars also stated that he would bring up a need for an Assistant City Administrator at the February meeting of council.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS: City Administrator Bailey request that council approve a resolution adopting the county's current Debris Management Plan. On motion by T. Armour, second by Cullars, council approved Resolution adopting the Wilkes County Debris Management Plan 6 to 0. Resolution follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN DATED SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has developed and adopted a debris management plan to establish procedure for the clearing and removal of debris generated during a public emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington, Georgia, wishes to adopt the Wilkes County Debris Management Plan to provide for continuity in the delivery of public services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, that the City adopts the Wilkes County, Georgia Debris Management plan dated September 22, 2016, attached to this resolution as "Exhibit A";

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted by the governing authority of the City of Washington, Georgia on the 12th day of January, 2018.

CSRA PROBATION SERVICES CONTRACT: City Administrator Bailey requested council approval to enter into a contract with CSRA Probations Services for probations services for the Municipal Court. Judge Horgan has reviewed and approved the contract. On motion by R. Armour, second by Cullars, council approved the contract 6 to 0.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE EXTENSION: City Administrator Bailey requested council approval to extend health insurance coverage for a long time city employee for a two month period (March and April 2018). On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved request 6 to 0.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 419 – FIREWORKS: City Attorney Nelson requested council approval of a resolution supporting House Bill 419 which allows cities to regulate fireworks within their

communities. On motion by Cullars, second by T. Armour, council approved resolution 6 to 0. Resolution follows:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING HOUSE BILL 419 FIREWORKS

Recognizing the diversity of needs in different regions of our state with respect to the use of fireworks; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, there are significant differences throughout the State in terms of types of communities and housing; and

WHEREAS, there are major differences in choices in terms of building density, lot size and proximity to neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the choice of those who live in more populated areas of the State has been limited in terms of the use of fireworks and the quality of life in those more populated areas has been diminished;

WHEREAS, fireworks are the only noise that is treated differently than other noises in state law; all other noises are governed by noise ordinances that are passed by local governments to govern their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there are large unincorporated areas of the State that do not have noise ordinances; and

WHEREAS, according to <https://library.municode.com.ga>, there are only 108 of the 538 cities in Georgia or twenty percent of the cities in Georgia that have a noise ordinance and would thus be affected by the new legislation; and

WHEREAS, all of our southeastern neighbors allow local control of the use of fireworks in their State and half of the States nationwide allow for local control of the use of fireworks, except the State of Massachusetts that does not allow the use of fireworks at all; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia House of Representatives passed House Bill 419 during the 2017 Legislative Session by a vote of 147 to 17 to enable the governing authorities in certain counties to further regulate the use or ignition of fireworks; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 419 does not address the use of fireworks but rather the noise created by certain fireworks and does not in any fashion restrict or address the sale of fireworks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, GEORGIA, that this resolution is presented to urge the Georgia Senate of the General Assembly to pass House Bill 419 and for the Governor of the State of Georgia to sign such bill into law to improve the quality of life for the citizens of their city, recognizing that not all such counties and cities have noise ordinances and that the population density in some areas of Georgia will not warrant regulation of noises by noise ordinance.

Passed this 12th day of January, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mahoney, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 meeting adjournment at 4:37 PM.

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK